

How to play with linguistic data

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Language and people: diversity and harmony

Overview

- > Introduction
 - Language situation in Switzerland
 - Research on ‘multi-ethnolect’
 - > The workshop
 - Aims and design
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 - Results
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Introduction

> Language situation in Switzerland

Geographical distribution of the languages of Switzerland (2000)



Introduction

> Language situation in Switzerland

— 8 Mio inhabitants, 25% immigrants

— Officially quadrilingual

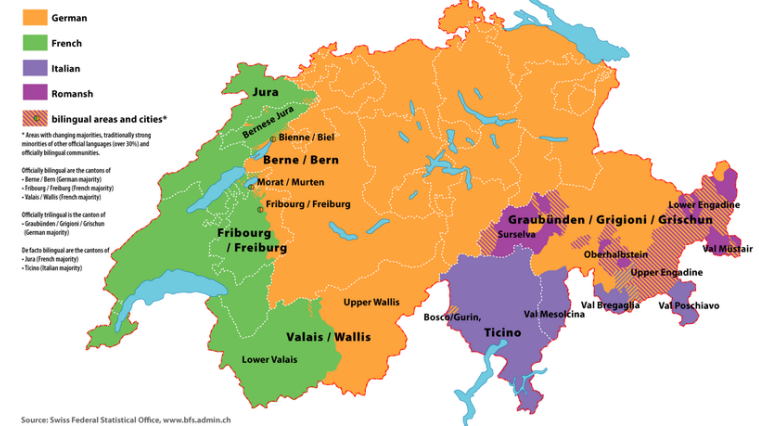
— Second language learning

(French/German/Italian) compulsory from 3rd grade (8 years)

— Migrant languages

— English

Geographical distribution of the languages of Switzerland (2000)



Introduction

> Language situation in Switzerland

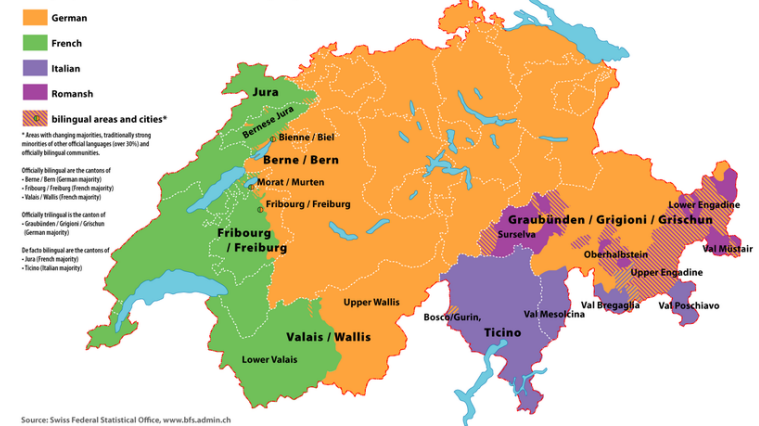
— German:

- 63% speakers
- Standard German used as written language
- Swiss German dialects are spoken languages

— Italian:

- 8% speakers
- Standard Italian taught in school, dialects spoken

Geographical distribution of the languages of Switzerland (2000)



Introduction

> Language situation in Switzerland

— Rhaeto-Romansch:

- 0.5% speakers, only in one canton
- Official language since 1938

— French:

- 23% speakers
- Swiss French and French French differ, but not in the same way as Standard German and Swiss German

Geographical distribution of the languages of Switzerland (2000)



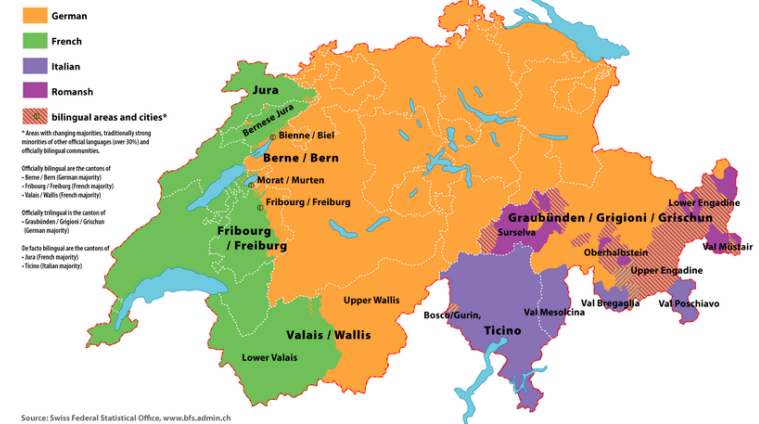
Introduction

> Language situation in Switzerland

— Migrant languages

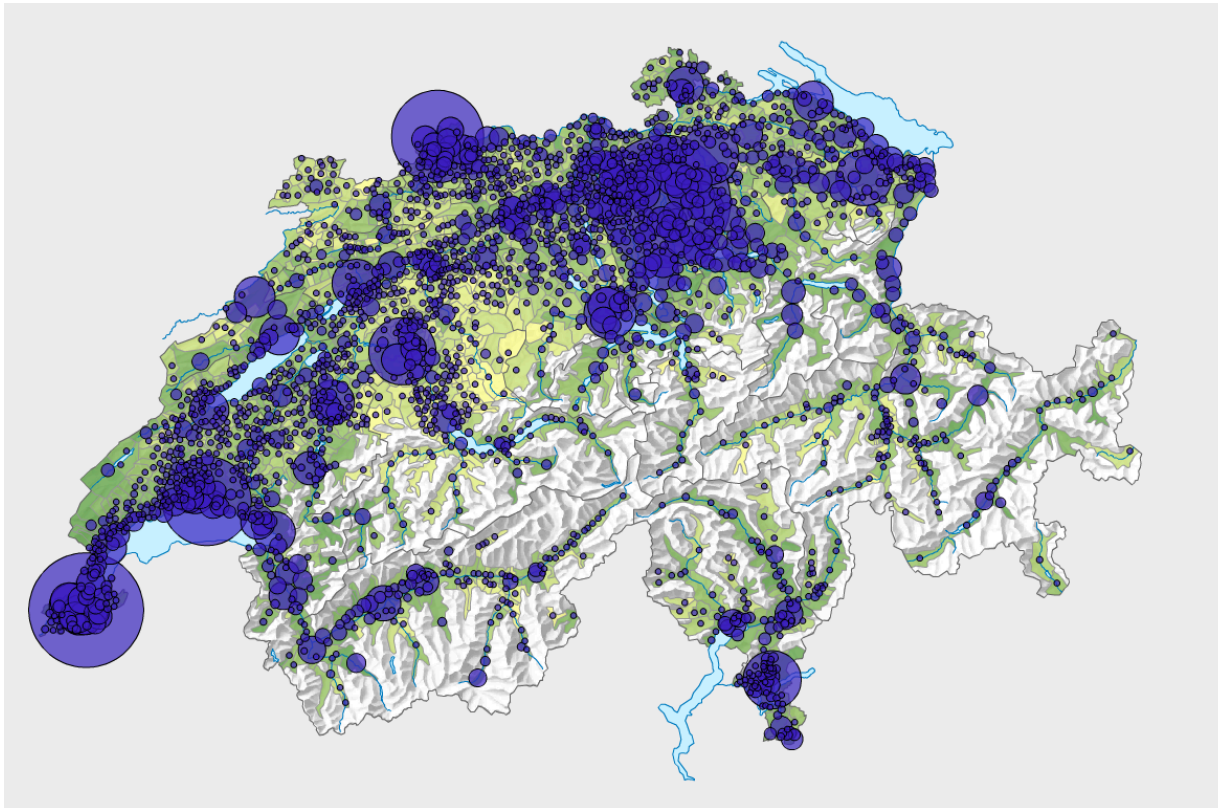
- 3.6% Portuguese
- 3% Albanian
- 2.5% Serbian/Croatian
- 2.2% Spanish
- 6.8% others
- 4.6% English

Geographical distribution of the languages of Switzerland (2000)



Introduction

- > Language situation in Switzerland
 - Migrant concentration



Introduction

- > Language situation in Switzerland
 - Switzerland is officially quadrilingual
 - Switzerland is a country with very distinct diglossia
 - Language situation is influenced by many migrant languages
 - > Research on languages and dialects in Switzerland
 - Traditional dialectology (Survey of Swiss German dialects)
 - Contemporary research on Swiss German (phonetics & syntax),
some studies in perceptual dialectology
-

Introduction

> Research on ‘multi-ethnolects’

— Definition by Nortier & Dorleijn (2013: 229):

A multi-ethnolect is a linguistic style that is part of the linguistic practices of speakers with more than two different ethnic and [...] linguistic backgrounds, and contains features from more than one language, but has one clear lexical and grammatical base language, generally the dominant language of the society where the multi-ethnolect is in use. [...]

Introduction

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- > Research on ‘multi-ethnolects’
 - Some studies on multi-ethnolects:
 - UK, Hewitt (1986), Rampton (1995) or Fox (2015) all on London
 - Belgium, Ramaerker (1998), Jaspers (2008) or Marzo (forthcoming)
 - USA, mainly Cutler (2008, 2015) and Eckert (2015)
 - Germany, Dirim and Auer (2004) on Hamburg, Keim (2008) on Mannheim, Wiese (2012) on Berlin
 - Netherlands, Appel (1999) or Nortier and Dorleijn (2001) on Amsterdam
 - **Switzerland?**
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The workshop

- > Aims:
- Students get familiar with principles of variationist dialectological method
 - Practically introduce students to linguistic field research
 - Give students instructions to extract, analyse and statistically process examples of their collected data
 - Motivate students to run their own field research project
 - To conduct a first study on multi-ethnolectal Swiss German in Bern (concentrating on a two high frequency grammatical variables)
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The workshop

> Design:

— Workshop meetings:

1. Introduction to the field, mainly to research on multi-ethnolects
 2. Introduction to dialectology in the German speaking area with special focus on Switzerland
 3. Field research – why, how and where? Dos and don'ts
 4. Object of research – focus on quotatives and general extenders
 1. *eg. And I dished up an omelette, and he's like 'Is that all you're giving me?'*
 2. *eg. I just popped into Maxima to get some veg and stuff*
 5. How to analyse data with RBrul – Introduction to a widely used tool to statistically analyse linguistic data
-

How the students played with data

> Results:

— Ellora's study:

sex / verb of quotation	female		male		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Ø	88	60.5%	24	36.5%	112	53%
säge	32	22%	28	42.5%	60	28.5%
other	15	10.5%	11	16.5%	26	12.5%
dänke	9	6%	1	1.5%	10	4.5%
finge	0	0%	2	3%	2	1%
frage	1	0.5	0	0%	1	0.5%
Total	145	100%	66	30.5%	211	100%

- Observing quotatives, she found out that women use no verb of quotation in 60% of all sentences, while men omit such a verb only in 36% of the cases.

How the students played with data

> Results:

— Katrin's study:

Another interesting aspect can be found by examining the **relation between connector and the elements which follow the word *so***. It is more likely that there is **no word following after *oder+so*** than it is in the combination of ***und+so***. The latter one allows further combinations with *sache*, *schäiss* and *züg* while the former one was combined in the following matter:

(7) wüu i ha o I de ferie irgendwie ds spanie **oder so** weisch

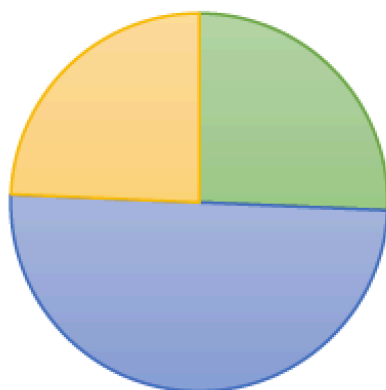
(8) ich möchte nacher in Immobiliemarkt **oder so** öbis

However, ***so* often stands on its own with 89% over all cases.**

How the students played with data

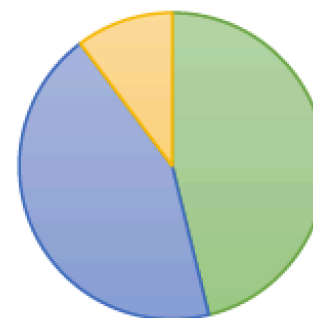
- > Results:
 - Anna's study:

General extenders in Berne



■ oder so ■ und so ■ rest

General extenders in
Lucerne



■ oder so ■ und so ■ rest

How the students played with data

> Results:

— Yanick's study:

Age	Presence.of..wie.			
	ja	nein	total	
17	0	0	17	17
18	0	1	46	47
19	0	1	66	67
20	0	0	1	1
21	0	0	12	12
22	0	1	49	50
23	0	0	1	1
24	0	0	16	16
total	0	3	208	211

In these two crosstabs, age and verb of quotation and age and presence of 'wie' is looked at. Clearly, as the second tab shows, 'wie' is used very infrequently. Indeed, in all age groups 'wie' is almost inexistent, as it scores only in three cases. In the first tab, on the other hand, we get the options for verbs of quotation and learn that ~~säge~~ and another ~~verb~~ which unfortunately appears only as 277 are the most important swings.

How the students played with data

> Results:

— Priska's study:

Die weiblichen Probandinnen nutzten "so" in rund 64% ihrer Aussagen zur Einleitung einer direkten Rede. Dagegen war dies bei den männlichen Probanden nur in 40% ihrer Aussagen der Fall (vgl. Tabelle 3).

Tabelle 3: Presence of so

Presence.of..so.	Sex		total
	FEMALE	MALE	
ja	94	27	121
nein	51	39	90
total	145	66	211

How the students played with data

> Results:

— Maya's study:

3.1.6 Verwendung verschiedener Verben in Abhängigkeit des Alters

Zusammenhänge des Verbgebrauchs und des Alters lassen sich wenige aufzeigen. Allerdings fällt auf, dass bei den ältesten Probanden (24-jährig) kaum Verben weggelassen wird, währenddem die unter 20-jährigen sehr oft auf das Verb verzichten.

	Age								
Verb.of.quotation	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	total
\xbf	9	22	39	0	5	36	0	1	112
andere	3	3	7	0	2	4	0	7	26
d\x8anke	1	5	2	0	1	1	0	0	10
finge	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
frage	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
s\x8age	4	17	16	1	4	9	1	8	60
total	17	47	67	1	12	50	1	16	211

Problems and benefits

> Problems

- Time consuming, for students and lecturers, supervision 24/7 needed
- One semester for such a course is not enough
- Problems with informants, software, deadlines...

> Benefits

- Students were very active, good participation
 - Playing with data was very well done
 - Results interesting, quality of MA students
 - Hopefully: More empirical studies included in MA theses in the near future
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an Sheldon.

*Thank you
for your
attention!*